

Action Plan for Time Sensitive Plans (TSP)

January 25, 2002

(from the Working Meeting on Time Sensitive Plans, Phoenix, Arizona, Oct 16-18, 2001)

Completion of this Action Plan is identified by BLM as integral to successfully completing the Time Sensitive Plans on schedule and providing lasting assistance to land use plans into the future. The tasks outlined in the Action Plan will be coordinated by the National Planning Support Team and will have a lead Group or Person assigned (shown in **bold**). This Action Plan is subject to change.

Establish National Planning Support Team & Provide Immediate Feedback to Phoenix Participants

1. Assemble the National Planning Support Team (NPST) consisting of a core team and an extended team. Use a core team consisting of a Project Manager and 3 core team members: Eli Ilano (WO-210); Jeff Jarvis (WO-170), and Alzata Ransom (WO-350). Use an extended team consisting of a representative from IRM and Public Affairs, the Group Managers, program specialists and representatives from the Department, Solicitors, CEQ and other agencies as appropriate for the specific tasks in this Action Plan.

The core team will work together on a daily basis to facilitate the completion of the tasks in this Action Plan and provide on-going support to the states and planning teams during the 2-3 year period. The Project Manager will work with the Board of Directors to provide leadership and oversight to the NPST and will serve as a liaison to the National Energy Office, the Consultation Assistance Team, and the Offices of Fire and Aviation and Wildland Fire Coordination.

The extended team will prepare national level program and policy guidance, resolve national level policy conflicts, conduct coordinated policy reviews, and provide assistance with data and information gathering to support timely completion of the time sensitive plans.

The work associated with this Action Plan will require dedicated staff on a regular and intensive schedule during the next six months, then on an as-needed basis through October, 2004. Additionally, there will be a significant "spike" in workload immediately before publication of the various NOIs and NOAs to facilitate a timely and efficient WO/DOI review process.

WHO: ADs, Group Managers

WHEN: December 14, 2001 (CORE TEAM MEMBERS, EXTENDED TEAM MEMBERS IDENTIFIED, AND ACTING PROJECT MANAGER IDENTIFIED 11/21/01)

2. Develop national level MOU or Cooperating Agency agreements with USFS, NPS, USGS (i.e. assistance with oil and gas and RFDs), EPA (i.e. streamlined reviews), and CEQ (i.e. FACA issues) to identify the support and assistance we need from these agencies as members of the extended team?

WHO: **WO-210** (Jordon Pope), Carol MacDonald, John Haugh
WHEN: (Draft) February 8, 2002, (Final) March 29, 2002

3. Clarify roles of the National Planning Support Team, the National Energy Office and the T&E Species Consultation Assistance Teams.

WHO: **Assistant Directors**, WO-230
WHEN: January 15, 2001

4. Issue draft Action Plan, list of attendees and the compiled notes to Phoenix meeting participants, state planning leads, Associate State Directors and Deputy State Directors (Minerals/Resources).

WHO: **NPST**
WHEN: October 29, 2001 (COMPLETED 10/26/01)

5. Complete WO level Communication Plan and the related Q&As developed during the Phoenix meeting to “roll out” the planning initiative and support development of state and local level communication plans.

WHO: **Public Affairs**
WHEN: December 14, 2001 (COMPLETED 12/14/01)

6. Prepare status tracking system for TSPs. Work with IRM to develop a performance measure(s) that is automatically reported through a direct link to the MIS workload measures and the status/tracking system. Establish this measure as an element of the Director's Tracking System.

WHO: **WO-210** (Ingrid Bell, Jim Perry, Andrew Strasfogel), IRM
WHEN: Internal model November 23, 2001 (MODEL COMPLETE 11/13/01); Final product December 15, 2001 (COMPLETED 12/7/01)

7. Assign a WO liaison(s) to each Time Sensitive Plan to assist the planning team as needed throughout the process; to develop an understanding of the issues and challenges faced by the planning team; to serve as the primary communication link between the WO and the state and field offices; to communicate issues and concerns to the NPST and appropriate Washington staff, to follow-up on requests for support and assistance; to maintain current status of the planning effort; and to facilitate timely and efficient WO/DOI reviews. These tasks will be coordinated with the State Offices.

WHO: **WO-210** (State Liaisons)
WHEN: December 7, 2001 (COMPLETED)

Finalize Draft Guidance Documents and Issue Additional Guidance

8. Finalize the IMs/IBs (NPST/TSP, Streamlining, Handbook clarification, Web standards, Review requirements, Data/information needs, Administrative record, Coordination with counties, Environmental justice, ESA consultation streamlining, NLCS “no action” alternative), and Q&As.

WHO: **National Planning Support Team**, Group Managers, Solicitor's Office
WHEN: (Draft) January 15, 2002, (Final) February 15, 2002

9. Issue guidance on the National Fire Plan, National Energy Policy and Reasonable Foreseeable Developments (RFD).

WHO: **OF&A, AD-300**, Group Managers
WHEN: Fire Plan, November 9, 2001 (COMPLETED); National Energy Policy, January 25, 2002 (DRAFT COMPLETED); Meeting on RFDs to develop strategy and time line by January 15, 2002.

10. Confirm requirements of the Planning Handbook (Appendix C) and other guidance regarding requirements for land use plan decisions and implementation decisions. Issue additional guidance if necessary. Develop model language to describe Resource Management Objectives, statements of Land Use Allocations and Management Actions for national-level policies, laws and regulations for use in RMPs. Consider data/information requirements in consultation with the states.

WHO: **Group Managers**, Solicitor's Office
WHEN: (Draft) December 15, 2001 (COMPLETED); (Final) February 15, 2002.

11. Develop guidance and model for addressing Environmental Justice. Build outreach into scoping/public participation process.

WHO: **WO-210** (Jordon Pope), WO-170 (Steve Cohn)
WHEN: Draft December 6, 2001 (COMPLETED); Final February 15, 2002

12. Develop guidance to explain the distinction between RMP land use allocation decisions and implementation decisions and the appropriate protest and appeal processes. Develop common language to explain how certain types of decisions will be implemented only after a subsequent NEPA process, including public involvement.

WHO: **WO-210 (Paul Politzer)**, Solicitor's Office
WHEN: February 1, 2002 (draft); March 1, 2002 (final)

13. Develop guidance on public comment analysis options. Issue memo to field to inquire who wants to use it in the next six months? Get contractors/USFS on standby. Determine cost? Describe process to use the contractors/agreements.

WHO: **WO-210** (Jordon Pope)
WHEN: Draft December 6, 2001 (COMPLETED); Final February 15, 2002

Develop Examples/Models to Streamline Planning

14. Develop a sample outline (format) for RMPs (e.g., Arizona Plan/EIS model).

WHO: **National Planning Support Team**, State Planning Leads
WHEN: January 31, 2002 (DRAFT COMPLETED)

15. Develop model RMP Readers Guide (what is an RMP, what to look for, how to review, how to provide comments, etc.). Develop sample language for Purpose/Need of RMPs, a list of major (national level) laws, regulations and policies affecting management of BLM lands, Glossary of Terms, Statement of BLM History and Multiple Use Mission for use in RMPs.

WHO: **Public Affairs**
WHEN: March 1, 2002

16. Provide guidance for incorporating land health standards into the RMP.

WHO: **WO-220 and WO-230**, Group Managers, Solicitor's Office
WHEN: (Draft) February 15, 2002; (Final) March 15, 2002.

17. Develop a website to include relevant products from this Action Plan as well as other planning resources.

WHO: **Internal: WO-210 (Jim Perry)/ CO SO (Glenn Wallace); External: WO-210 (Pat Green)**, Group Managers, Solicitor's Office
WHEN: February 15, 2001.

18. Review results of the Energy Policy Conservation Act (EPCA) priority area studies to provide specific instructions to field offices for modifications of existing practices or develop recommendations for consideration in the land-use planning process. Based on the results of EPCA, evaluate stipulations to determine if alternative methods (performance based stipulations, etc.) are available that provide adequate environmental protections and develop an associated monitoring program.

WHO: **WO-230**, Group Managers, State/Field Offices
WHEN: Review and guidance on existing practices May 31, 2002; Evaluation, alternatives, and monitoring program October 31, 2002.

Establish Review Process/Criteria

19. Develop WO/DOI review process. Develop review criteria for the list of major laws, regulations and policies (Action #17) and establish review process for WO. Coordinate with the DOI and Solicitor's Office. Simplify and streamline where possible.

WHO: **National Planning Support Team**, WO-210 liaisons to TSPs, Group Managers, DOI, Solicitor's Office
WHEN: January 25, 2002 (DRAFT COMPLETED 12/21/01)

20. Develop a consistent (as appropriate) approach to conduct and document the State Director review (quality control for consistency with laws, regulations, policies, and process to ensure decisions are sustainable) process.

WHO: **Deputy State Directors** (Minerals/Resources), Regional Solicitor's Office
WHEN: February 15, 2001 (DRAFT COMPLETED 12/21/01)

Provide Assistance with Data/Info Gathering and Consultation Needs

21. Synthesize available information for application to significant, controversial RMP issues. Working with partners (agencies, universities, NGOs, foundations, etc), identify the most common, significant, controversial RMP decisions and issues; identify and synthesize available physical, biological and socio-economic information which addresses those decisions/issues; and describe implications at the regional level for use to assess environmental effects and support reasonable mitigation measures.

WHO: **National Science and Technology Center**, WO-210 (John Haugh, Jim Stone), WO-230, Group Managers, USGS/BRD
WHEN: Final Product, March 30, 2002.

22. Evaluate the status of the Vegetation EIS. Determine the time frame for the section on vegetation condition and trend. Provide useful data/information as it becomes available to state and field office for more direct application to RMPs.

WHO: **WO-220**
WHEN: Evaluation November 23, 2001 (COMPLETE 11/16/01); Data/information on-going.

23. Provide state planners with the schedule for Section 7 (ESA) Consultation Assistance Team (CAT) meetings in each state. Develop IM requesting report on Land Use Plan consultation status and proposed state strategy. Develop state strategies to complete consultation requirements for current and new RMPs, including time sensitive plans. Provide guidance on streamlining consultation.

WHO: **WO-230 (Peggy Olwell)**, SDs, Group Managers, USFWS, NMFS
WHEN: Send schedule by November 16, 2001 (COMPLETED); Issue guidance by January 18, 2002; Complete state strategies, including on TSPs, by February 28, 2002; Develop national framework by March 15, 2002.

Provide Assistance with Legal Issues and Budget

24. Complete analysis of protests, lawsuits (current cases and case law). For review of lawsuits, start with the list of current litigation prepared for the transition guide "First 120 Days." Identify greatest risks. Prepare strategy to address the major issues and greatest risks. Look at "Worlds Greatest NEPA Training" handbook and CEQ's "Top 40 Questions" and get this information to all state planners ASAP.

WHO: (Protests) **WO-210** (Paul Politzer), (Lawsuits) **Solicitor's Office**
WHEN: February 8, 2002

25. Resolve questions about APA requirements to publicize notice of meeting dates.

WHO: **WO-210**, Solicitor's Office
WHEN: November 2, 2001 (COMPLETE 10/29/01)

26. States revise Preparation Plans based on criteria provided by WO-210 for 1610 funding. Make final budget allocations in FY 2002 AWP.

WHO: **States**, WO-210 (Jim Perry)

WHEN: (Revise Preparation Plans) October 26, 2001 (COMPLETE 10/26/01), (AWP)
November 30, 2001

27. Prepare social and economic analyses. Complete several analyses to help BLM planners and managers understand the social, economic and demographic changes in the western US over the next 20 years and the land use implications of these changes for BLM and its partners. Specific deliverables include a comprehensive analysis and synthesis of selected literature and secondary data about trends in the "changing west" and the land use implications of these trends and the compilation of regional profiles of the "changing west."

WHO: **WO-600 (Pam Cleary)**

WHEN: Draft (late January), Power Point and Briefing Papers (March 2002), Final (May 2002)